

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-13, and 15 have been amended herein.

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for obtaining information regarding events to be taking place within a software program to be used by a customer on a computing device, comprising:

including, for each of a number of selected events, an indicator within the software program that records the selected event, the indicator including a text string created by a software developer and descriptive of the selected event;

assigning and including a unique tag corresponding to each text string;

creating an index mapping each tag to the corresponding text string;

prior to retail sale, removing each text string from the software program;

~~and~~

releasing the software program for retail sale;[[.]]

after releasing the software program for retail sale, receiving a file of events as indicated by at least a portion of the unique tags included in the software program, the file being created when the software program is run on the computing device used by the customer;

processing the file by using the index to map each unique tag in the file with its corresponding text string; and

outputting a text string record of the events which took place within the software program.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
~~creating, on the computing device, a file of the recorded events including~~  
~~the unique tag for each event;~~  
~~receiving, from the computing device, the file of the recorded events;~~  
~~processing the file, by replacing into the file, the text string corresponding~~  
~~to each tag within the file; and~~  
~~outputting a text string record of the events which took place within the~~  
~~software program;~~  
using the ~~thereby providing a software provider a text~~ string record of the  
events which took ~~taking~~ place within the software program to determine how the  
software program may have failed.
3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the indicator is a function  
call.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1[[2]], ~~further~~  
~~comprising: wherein as the~~ software program executes on the computing device used by the  
customer, ~~limiting~~ the size of the file of the recorded events is limited.
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 4, ~~further comprising:~~  
wherein in response to a failure of the software program on the computing device used by the  
customer, ~~automatically transmitting~~ the file is automatically transferred to a repository  
accessible by the software provider.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 5, wherein the failure is a crash of the software program.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, further comprising including within selected indicators an identifier, the identifier identifying information unwanted by a software provider.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 7, ~~further comprising:~~  
~~wherein filtering out, prior to receiving transmittal of the file to the repository, selected data~~  
indicated by the identifier is filtered out as unwanted information.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for obtaining information regarding events to be taking place within a software program to be used by a customer on a computing device, comprising:

searching for a text string within the software program created by a software developer and descriptive of a selected event;

assigning and including a unique tag corresponding to each text string found;

creating an index mapping each tag to the corresponding text string;

prior to retail sale, removing each text string from the software program;

and

releasing the software program for retail sale;[[.]]

after releasing the software program for retail sale, receiving a file of events as indicated by at least a portion of the unique tags included in the software

program, the file being created when the software program is run on the computing device used by the customer;

processing the file by using the index to map each unique tag in the file with its corresponding text string; and

outputting a text string record of the events which took place within the software program.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer system having a processor, a memory, and an operating environment, the computer system operable to execute a method for obtaining information regarding events to be taking place within a software program to be used by a customer on a computing device, comprising:

searching for a text string within the software program created by a software developer and descriptive of a selected event;

assigning and including a unique tag corresponding to each text string found;

creating an index mapping each tag to the corresponding text string;

prior to retail sale, removing each text string from the software program;

~~and~~

releasing the software program for retail sale;[[.]]

after releasing the software program for retail sale, receiving a file of events as indicated by at least a portion of the unique tags included in the software program, the file being created when the software program is run on the computing device used by the customer;

processing the file by using the index to map each unique tag in the file  
with its corresponding text string; and  
outputting a text string record of the events which took place within the  
software program.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for recording program information, by a software provider, about events to be taking place within a software program executing on a computer to be used by a customer, comprising:

including, for each of a number of selected events, an indicator within the software program that records the selected event, the indicator including a text string created by a software developer and descriptive of the selected event;

coding the text string with a unique tag corresponding to each text string;

creating a decoding file mapping each unique tag to the corresponding text string;

prior to retail sale, removing each text string from the software program;  
and

releasing the software program for retail sale;[[.]]

after releasing the software program for retail sale, receiving a file of  
events as indicated by at least a portion of the unique tags included in the software  
program, the file being created when the software program is run on the computer used  
by the customer;

processing the file by using the decoding file to map each unique tag in the  
file with its corresponding text string; and

outputting a text string record of the events which took place within the software program.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 11, further comprising ~~receiving, from the customer, a file of the recorded events, the file including the unique tag for each event;~~

~~decoding the file by mapping the coded tag with the corresponding text string; and~~

~~outputting a text string record of the events which took place within the software program;~~

~~thereby providing the software provider with a~~ using the text string record of the events which took ~~taking~~ place within the software program to determine how the software program may have failed.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 2, ~~further comprising:~~ wherein the file is deleted on the computer used by the customer ~~deleting the file~~ when the program closes normally, without crashing.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 7, wherein the unwanted information is sensitive or personal information about the customer.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 11, wherein removing each text string from the software program prior to releasing the software program for retail sale ~~transferring the program to a customer~~ includes deleting each text string from the software program but at least temporarily storing said each text string incident to said deleting.